Parks Canada

Government Publications

THE BEGINNINGS

As the seat of government in Nova Scolia for part of both the French and British regimes, Annapolis Royal held an important place in Canada's early history. Called Port-Royal by the French, it is one of the oldest.

The first settlement, established in 1605, was built five miles down the Annapolis River where the Habitation, Port-Royal National Historic Park, is now located. This earlier colony was destroyed in 1613 by the English, but by 1635 the French Governor, Charles de Menou d'Aulnay, had built a new Port-Royal here at the junction of the Allain and Annapolis Rivers. Over the next century, other settlements grew up throughout the area of present day mainland Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to create the

THE CONFLICT

Alarmed by recurring privateering attacks on their ships and by raids from the Indian allies of the French, the New England colones to the south fried to destroy the Acadian communities. Quebec was the logical target of New England's reprisals as it was the source of the heavest French attacks, but the colonists couldn't muster the large-scale effort required to hit back at that distance. Consequently, the more accessible Acadian centres in Nova Scotla bore the

Port-Royal, Acada's largest settlement, suffered through several raids but by 1700 belated support was arriving from France and the colonists were building the substantial for which is commemorated on this site. But if was a case of too little too late. Before the fort was linished the attention and support of France had been distracted by European problems and local officers had to scrounge for materials and money to complete the work. And white two attacks were beaten off by the garrison in 1707, in 1710 Coloniel Francis Nicholson fload a final steps with a force of New England troops and British Marines. The Governor, Daniel Auger de Subercase, held out for two weeks but lack of food supplies and the constant

THE BRITISH ERA

The conquered lown was renamed Annapolis Royal in honour of Ouen Anne and became the official capital of Nova Scotia after the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) ceded maintand Nova Scotia to the Bnitish but the neglect which the new Bnitish province now suffered wasn't much improvement over what it had experienced as a French possession. Aided by a rag-tag garrison of regular troops and frequent reinforcements from Massachussetts, the new administrators attempted to establish an effective Bnitish presence in a province still populated with Acadians and infiltrated by raiding parties from Quebec and from the Fortress of Louisbourg on French-held Isle Royale, now Cape Retend Island

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A twelve-man military and civilian council headed by the senior resident officer managed as best they could in a situation where the chief official, the Governor, often resided back in England.

The work of the council and the garrison was complicated by crumbling fortifications, poor morale among the troops, frequent ambushes outside the for

and a lack of urgency on the part of authorities in England. The garisson was poorly fed; the soldiers' pay was usually overdue and the officers — when they weren't quarrelling — often had to pool their own money to support their (roops. And some of the soldiers who fought in the siege of 1710 were still there in 1750!

Nevertheless, the unhappy garrison managed to defend the town and for lagainst several French attacks. Because of transportation difficulties, the French raiders never brought artillery with them and this factor along with the promise of neutrality extracted from the Acadian population, gave the British their hold on the province for almost forty years. By the mid 1740's a more vigorous policy towards North American affairs was being adopted in Great Britain. In 1749'the capital was switched to Hallfax where a military base was established to counter-balance the strong French presence at Louisbourg and the fort at Annapolis Royal declined to the status of an outpost. The new governor and council at Halifax weren't satisfied with the rule-of-thumb policies of their Annapolis Royal predecessors — particularly regarding their failure to

extract an oath of allegiance requiring the Acadian population to bear arms for the British Crown. Insisting that mere neutrality was inadequate, the new administration ultimately forced the tragic expulsion of the Acadians from the province in 1755.

Meanwhile, the fort at Annapolis Royal went through fluctuations in importance as British policy towards the military requirements of the province changed. By 1854, however, the last detachment of troops had been withdrawn and by 1880 only the two magazines, the officers' quarters and two antillery sheds remained within the old earthworks.

PRESERVATION OF THE SITE

he decay that had set in was partly checked in 885-97 when a group of townspeople organized a ommittee and obtained government grants to repair ne crumbling magazines, sally port and officers' quarters. In 1917 the old for twas transferred from the lepartment of Militia and Defence to the National artisk Service and became one of Canada's first lational Historic Parks. It is now maintained by Parks 'Anada's Denadrament of Indian and Northern Affairs'

The surviving original buildings are the storehouse in the northwest bastion and the powder magazine in the southwest bastion. The earthworks, among the oldest historic features in the National Historic Parks system, have been left in their "as-found" condition.

The museum building is a 1935 restoration of the

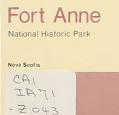




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Fort Anne

Parc historique national

Nouvelle Écosse



LES DÉBUTS

Annapolis Royal joua un rôle important dans l'histoire des

Le premier village, fondé en 1605 sur la rivière Annapolis, se trouvail à cinn milles en avai de l'emplacement actuel de l'habitation, parc historique national de Port-Royal. Cette mais en 1635 le gouverneur français Charles de Menou d'Aulnay avait déià bâti un nouveau Port-Royal ici, au région qui recouvre, de nos jours, la partie de la

1.F.CONFLIT

feurs vaisseaux ainsi que par les incursions des Indiens alliés des Français, les colonies de la Nouvelle-Angleterre situées au sud essavèrent de détruire les villages acadiens. Québec pouvaient fournir l'effort considérable qui était nécessaire accessibles, qui subirent leurs représailles.

plusieurs attaques. Vers 1700, les renforts attendus arrivèrent de France et les colons commencèrent à de fusiliers marins anglais, dirigea un siège qui fut décisif. Le

L'ÈRE BRITANNIQUE

l'honneur de la reine Anne, et devint la capitale officielle de la terre lerme. Mais l'abandon dans lequel la nouvelle province rapport à ce qu'elle avait connu en tant que possession fréquemment du Massachussetts, les nouveaux administrateurs tentérent d'établir une présence britannique authentique dans une province encore peuplée d'Acadiens. où s'infiltraient sans cesse des pilleurs venus de Québec et de l'Isle Boyale, maintenant appelée Can-Breton, Un conseil militaire et civil de douze membres, sous la direction de fonctionnaire principal, le gouverneur, demeurait souvent au

La tâche du conseil et de la pamison se trouvait compliquée leurs troupes. Quelques soldats qui s'étaient battus au siège de 1710 étaient toujours là en 1750!

Néanmoins, cette infortunée parnison parvint à défendre le fort et la ville contre plusieurs attaques françaises. Par suite de difficultés de transport, les pilleurs français ne faisaient jamais suivre leur artillerie. Ce facteur, ajouté à la promesse Anglais la possession de la province pendant près de

Cependant en 1854 le demier détachement des troupes avait été retiré et en 1890, seuls les quartiers des officiers, les deux poudrières et deux abris d'artillerie subsistaient dans

CONSERVATION DU SITE

réparer les poudrières, la poterne et les quartiers des officiers. En 1917, l'ancien fort passa du ministère de la





CMinistre des Approvisionnement et Services